

years of dedication to St. Joseph, MI. I wish him and his wife, Hilda, a long, healthy, and happy retirement. All the best, Bill, and thank you for all that you have done.

TRIBUTE TO JIM WEATHERS

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 19, 1996

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to honor Mr. James J. "Jim" Weathers. Jim answered his Nation's call to arms, served his community, and most importantly raised a family. He provided a sterling example of what we hope to accomplish and strive to be.

Jim served in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam war. Following his naval service, he participated in the Naval Reserve. As a member of New Lothrop Post 6579 of Veterans of Foreign Wars, he served as 9th VFW District Commander and captain of the VFW State Honor Guard and was instrumental in serving the needs of veterans. He was also employed by General Motors' Buick Motor Division for 32 years, 8 years as a driver.

Jim was born in Owosso, MI, on January 19, 1944, the son of Jerome and Gladys Weathers. He was a 1964 graduate of New Lothrop High School and resided in New Lothrop most of his life. He married Glenda Walworth on November 4, 1967, and raised a family.

Jim was a member of the West Flint Church of the Nazarene. He was also a member of the New Lothrop-Hazelton Township Fire Department and the Tri-County and Shiawassee Bike Club. Jim was very active with the New Lothrop Athletic Department.

Jim's extraordinary life was cut short during a recent biking trip. His family and accomplishments stand as a testimony to his commitment to service, dedication to country, and love of family.

Mr. Speaker, I know you will join me in paying tribute to Jim Weathers for his service to his country, his community, and his family. The people of mid-Michigan will miss him dearly.

CHURCH ARSON PREVENTION ACT OF 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. MARTIN R. HOKE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 18, 1996

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3525, the Church Arson Prevention Act of 1996. As a member of the Judiciary Committee I heard testimony from law enforcement officials that they do have the tools they need to effectively fight these abhorrent acts. Those resources are provided in this legislation.

As other Members have recounted, there have been over 100 church fires across the United States since October 1991. Most of these fires have occurred at predominantly African-American churches located in the Southeast. The most recent string of attacks—in-

cluding two additional fires just last night—should serve as a wakeup call to every American who is dedicated to protecting our religious heritage, our commitment to free expression, and our unyielding determination to preserve law and order.

Through this legislation, we are sending a message: Racism will not be tolerated and race-based crimes will not go unpunished. The destruction of a house of worship is repulsive and those who commit such contemptible acts will be pursued and prosecuted.

Let us also send this unmistakable message to the twisted, hateful perpetrators of these heinous acts: The basic decency, tolerance, and compassion of the American people will flower in the ashes of these charred sanctuaries. And while we can never forget that there may be an ugly capacity to hate in all of us, as individuals and as collective members of society we must never tolerate those who give in to such tendencies. In many cases these beliefs and practices are embedded deep in the soul and no act of Congress will root them out. Therefore, every American must be vigilant to stamp out racism and hatred wherever it surfaces. Together we can ensure that in America, the principles of justice, equality, and brotherhood thrive in the warm glow of freedom.

TRIBUTE TO MS. IDA CASTRO

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 19, 1996

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Ms. Ida Castro, an outstanding individual who has dedicated her life to the empowerment of Hispanic women. Ms. Castro was recently appointed by President Clinton as Director of the Women's Bureau of the U.S. Department of Labor.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Castro was born in Puerto Rico. On the island, she directed job training and job development programs. Later on she taught labor law at Rutgers University in New Jersey, and worked at Hostos Community College in my congressional district, the south Bronx, helping mothers who were receiving Aid for Families with Dependent Children become economically independent through full-time employment.

Ms. Castro has been a long-time advocate of women's issues. She has fought to improve working conditions for women, insure equal pay for equal work, incorporate employment with family needs, and increase job opportunities for women in all fields.

Prior to her appointment as Director, she worked as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Labor for Workers' Compensation programs and later as the Labor Department's Acting Deputy Solicitor. Through her new position at Labor's Women's Bureau, Ms. Castro will continue working to provide better employment opportunities for women and encouraging them to develop their full potential.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Ms. Ida Castro for her new post as Director of the U.S. Department of Labor Women's Bureau and in recognizing her contributions to the advancement of women in this Nation.

HONORING SAM LENA

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 19, 1996

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Sam Lena, a beloved public servant of southern Arizona who passed away on March 12, 1996. He will be greatly missed.

Sam Lena was born January 23, 1921, in Evergreen, LA. At the age of 20, he moved to Tucson for health reasons. For the ensuing 55 years, Sam was a distinguished member of the Tucson and the southern Arizona community. He was an outstanding softball player, and was well-known for being a strike-out ace. In one game as the pitcher for the Tucson Elks, he struck out 21 batters in eight innings. Sam was also a respected businessman and dedicated public servant.

His athletic skills and business talents gained him widespread recognition and respect throughout the community. This popularity encouraged him to move into a more formal leadership role. In 1965, he was appointed to the Arizona House of Representatives where he served two elected terms. In 1968 he was elected to the State senate where he served three terms and became a powerful force in southern Arizona politics.

From playing softball as a pitching strike-out ace to his extraordinary effectiveness as a public servant, Sam Lena infused his life with commitment and caring. He worked tirelessly for those groups and issues that were dear to him: Law enforcement, education, health care, social services, and the mentally retarded. Each of these areas benefited throughout Sam's tenure in the Arizona State Legislature, the Arizona State Senate, the Pima County Board of Supervisors, and as the special assistant to Arizona Governor Rose Mofford while he directed her southern Arizona office.

Sam made government personal. To quote his friend and protege of many years, Pima County Supervisor Dan Eckstrom:

Sam truly loved the many constituents that he served, from the youngest child to the oldest senior citizen. To him all people were the same. Yet, it was his special love for the indigent and disadvantaged that made him such the great community servant that he was. "Mr. Sam," as he was affectionately called by many, really enjoyed being out with his people, whether it was at the Knights of Columbus Hall, Lena's Liquors, the District 10 Democratic Club meetings, at Safeway, or just on the street, Sam was very approachable, willing to listen and always ready to help. He knew practically everyone in his district and everyone who knew him, knew him first as a friend.

Sam Lena worked diligently to ensure that society's resources were available to all. But more importantly, he spoke for those who are often unable to speak for themselves: The poor, the disadvantaged, the downtrodden. In many areas of health care, services to the poor, recreation facilities, education, and services for the mentally retarded, Sam Lena's peace making ability and genius as a consensus builder made new and better programs possible.

In addition to his official duties as an elected and appointed public servant, Sam Lena was an activist for the community. Through his personal efforts on behalf of Kino Hospital, this

critically needed community facility has been kept open. As a member of the Pima County Sports Authority, Sam was instrumental in promoting sporting activities, especially spreading training baseball and the building of a new southside baseball stadium.

Kino Hospital and the new baseball stadium are a small part of the legacy Sam Lena leaves this community. The greater part of his legacy is the people he helped and encouraged. "Mr. Sam" was a friend, a teacher, a counselor, a mentor. Many community leaders were first befriended and encouraged by Sam Lena. The spirit of community that he engendered continues to grow through those he has mentored.

Sam was always available to counsel and to talk with those who needed a caring friend. We are fortunate that this man of good morale character, simple tastes, and mild manner offered his guidance to so many others. Many were encouraged by his example to emulate these positive characteristics.

To Sam Lena's many friends, to his beloved wife, Tina, to his children, Sam, Jr., Katherine, and Johnny, and his step-children, Christine and David, to his grandchildren, Jennifer, Julianne, Catherine, Benjamin, Matthew and Sara, to his sisters, Lily and Virginia, and his brothers Buddy and Babe, I extend my sincere appreciation for their willingness to share this great man with so many others. His life is a model for all to follow. I thank Sam Lena for being my friend and for making his city, his county, his State, and his country better for all of us.

CAREGIVERS LEND A HAND

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 19, 1996

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a special person who has taken on a special task.

Livonia native Vikki Kowaleski, publisher of Caregiver Monthly, and her husband John have dedicated themselves to people who need help.

After a personal experience with the everyday rigors of caregiving in which their ideas were innovative and praised, Vikki and John decided to share their experience.

They developed Caregiver Monthly, a nationwide, Livonia-based newsletter, which is published to encourage, support, assist, inform, and exhort caregivers throughout the world.

Celebrating the first anniversary of their initial publication this month, this first year has been a tremendous success.

Dedicated to helping those who—out of need or even the goodness of their hearts—care for relatives, the elderly, or those unable to care for themselves, Caregiver Monthly focuses on helpful hints and information on many things like nutrition, long-term care, and other important health and personal tips.

Often promoting ways to make caregiving easier, Caregiver Monthly is a very important reading for our dedicated individuals who care for those who need help the most.

Congratulations, Vikki and John, and keep up the great work. Caregiver Monthly is headed in the right direction. Your commitment to

caregiving, as well as our outstanding dedication are tribute to your success. It is also an important part of making our community and country a better place.

THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 19, 1996

Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Peace Lutheran Church in Steeleville, IL. August 9, 1996, marks the church's 100th anniversary.

Their first church was built in 1896 by 27 charter members. Peace considered itself an independent Lutheran congregation affiliated with the Wartburg synod, which it officially joined in 1933. In 1950, the remaining services still conducted in German were discontinued in favor of services conducted in "American." Throughout the years Peace has established a school for seventh and eighth graders, a Sunday school program, a missionary society, two children's choirs, a young women's missionary society, and a prayer group. In 1988, Peace Lutheran Church became part of the Central-Southern Illinois Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Peace Lutheran Church has contributed to the life of the Steeleville community for a century. Their faith and dedication to their community remains a fine example for the people of Illinois and the country as a whole.

Mr. Speaker, on August 11, Bishop Zenker of the Central-Southern Illinois Synod will join Rev. James R. Lillie and the rest of the Peace Lutheran congregation for their 100th anniversary celebration. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing them a wonderful celebration and hope that their next century can be as productive as the past century.

WHY CONGRESS NEEDS THE MENTAL HEALTH BENEFIT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 19, 1996

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I know it is not fashionable to seek perks for Members of Congress, but we desperately, desperately need one—and the country would be better for it if we obtained this benefit for ourselves.

We need the mental health parity amendment, because a majority of the Members are clearly suffering from severe mental disconnect. As an institution, we are in need of treatment.

I refer, of course, to the insanity of spending long hours trying to pass the Kennedy-Kassebaum amendment to improve health insurance coverage, while we are also about to pass Medicaid budget cuts which will effectively remove health insurance coverage from millions of Americans.

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that the Kennedy-Kassebaum bill might help about 550,000 people a year when they switch jobs or leave a job which offers health insur-

ance and want to buy a policy of their own. It is a nice little bill and justifiably helps many worthy people. The Medicaid budget bill, on the other hand, will probably reduce Medicaid resources by a quarter of a trillion dollars over the next 6 years, and remove the guarantee of adequate health insurance from millions of children, parents, and grandparents. Thirty-seven million low-income blind, disabled, aged, and low-income children and their families are currently covered by Medicaid. Far more people will be hurt by the Medicaid cuts than will ever be helped by the Kennedy-Kassebaum bill.

If an individual pursued two such diametrically opposed actions, we'd say he was unbalanced and should seek professional help. The Senate in Kassebaum-Kennedy adopted an amendment to provide basically equal coverage of mental and physical health. I understand that that provision is being dropped. That is unfortunate. Members of Congress could use the help.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SALVA- TION ARMY'S EFFORTS IN ST. LOUIS

HON. JAMES M. TALENT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 19, 1996

Mr. TALENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of two outstanding programs that have made a tremendous impact on the St. Louis community: the Salvation Army comprehensive substance treatment and rehabilitation program [CSTAR] and the Salvation Army community in partnership family center [CIP]. These two organizations have worked with a consortium of businesses, service organizations, and governmental groups to provide the St. Louis community at large with invaluable homeless and drug treatment services.

The Salvation Army's CSTAR and CIP programs are part of an effort to help stabilize and empower homeless families and women with chemical dependencies so that they may help themselves. By nurturing a sense of dignity and resourcefulness, these programs enable individuals and their families to re-enter the community as participating citizens. Through the unique programming offered at each of the centers, families are given a foundation to rebuild their lives and eventually relocate into safe and affordable housing.

About a year ago, Congressman WATTS and I began to travel and visit organizations, like these, around the country. We asked the people and community leaders what they needed to run their programs more efficiently and what it would take to revitalize these impoverished communities.

All of the organizations found the Federal Government's involvement in their programs to be burdensome and intrusive. The Government made them jump through bureaucratic hoops, fill out stacks of paperwork, and follow silly, expensive, and troublesome regulations. They asked us to reduce this redtape and allow participants to enter their programs without having to comply with an abundance of requirements and to be able to run their program without being told which portions of the programs were acceptable and which were not.